

FORT NISQUALLY
Point Defiance Park, Pierce County
Tacoma, Washington

HABS No. Wash-37

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
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Historic American Buildings Survey
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1615 Smith Tower, Seattle, Washington

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FORT NISQUALLY

Point Defiance Park, Pierce County, Washington

OWNER:-- Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma

DATE OF ERECTION:-- 1843

BUILDER:-- Hudson Bay Company

PRESENT CONDITION:-- Good

NUMBER OF STORIES:-- Granary, 1 story. Factors House, 2 stories.
Bastion, 3 stories.

MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION:-- GRANARY: Hand hewn, squared timber construction, horizontal timbers set into grooved corner vertical timbers having tongues fitted into grooves. Sapling rafters and purlins and hand smoothed shingles for the roof.

BASTION: Construction same as for Granary, using oak ship's-knees for corner bracing.

STOCKADE: Split logs, every fifth log being of cedar set six feet into the ground. Two purlins the full length of the Stockade fastened to the uprights with wooden pegs.

FACTORS HOUSE: Frame construction, exterior walls of split cedar siding over 2" x 6" studs; inside walls 1" x 12" rough boards, ceiling ceiled with 1" x 12" boards with joints covered with 2" battens. Four fireplaces of brick. Roof covered with hand smooth shingles. All mill-work hand made.

OTHER EXISTING RECORDS:-- Chosen as a fort site by Archibald McDonald for the Hudson Bay Company in 1832, at the location east of the mouth of the Nisqually River; the men left behind at that time were augmented by others in 1833. Nisqually House established with eleven men in addition to Chief Trader McDonald and Dr. William Frase Tolmie as surgeon for these northern posts.

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Fort Nisqually was the center of important historic events including Indian uprisings and was an important item in negotiations and final settlement with the Hudson Bay Company. The Granary and Factors House, built in 1843, were moved from the original sites to their present location in Point Defiance Park and the Stockade and Bastion were reconstructed from data obtained from different sources, along with the other buildings comprising the original group, and are being maintained by the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma.

MEASURED AND DRAWN:-- January and April, 1937.

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